

BRITISH WOUNDED RETURNING FROM FIRING LINE AFTER DRIVE



British wounded coming back from firing line after great drive at Loos.

This is one of the first pictures to reach this country in connection with the desperate British drive at Loos. The losses were extremely large on both sides and hundreds of wounded Tommies trudged back to the field hospitals from the firing line after temporary dressing of their wounds.

Stimulates Some Manufacturers

Even in Belgium certain lines of manufacturing are very active. Textile factories making mourning fabrics are running day and night. So are the window-glass factories. Millions of panes of glass have been shattered by the bombardments and have to be replaced.

Some carpenters would rather file a saw than work.

A dodo has been reconstructed from bones, made as natural as possible with feathers, and set up for exhibition at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. It looks like a giant squab and is twice as big as a turkey.

The dodo has long been an extinct bird, and we have comparison, "as dead as the dodo;" but it was once a real bird and not a creature of fable only.

REMOVING TAR FROM GAS.

This Problem Has Always Presented Great Difficulty.

The problem of removing all traces of tar from gas has always presented certain difficulties and from experiments recently carried out it would seem that an electrical method is likely to solve the problem. The principle introduced is similar to that used in the smelting industry for the precipitation of lead and other fumes.

A specially constructed electrode, from which high tension direct current discharges emanate, is suspended in a cast iron inverted U-tube, constructed from standard eight inch pipe covered on the outside with a jacketing of felt. The arms of the U-tube are each nine feet long. The electrode consists of two cast iron disks four inches in diameter and placed five feet eight inches apart, connected by means of a light gas pipe. Fine discharge wires are stretched from disk to disk in the form of a squirrel cage. The high tension discharge has the effect of causing all the tiny particles of tar to be precipitated.

LIGHTNING HURTS CROPS.

Electric Discharges Often Injure Potatoes and Cotton.

While everybody is familiar with the damage done by lightning to trees, little attention has heretofore been paid to the effects of lightning-stroke upon herbs and plants. A recent paper by Messrs L. R. Jones and W. W. Gilbert reveals the fact that lightning injury is rather common in certain crops, especially cotton and potatoes. Grass, small grains and maize seem less liable to such damage. The lightning damage to cotton and potatoes frequently extends over roundish spots, one to three rods in diameter, or groups of smaller spots.

Although there may be no disturbance of the soil or visible rupture of the plant tissues, the plants near the center of the spot wilt, blacken and die promptly, while those near the margin may live days or weeks. The injury for the most part appears first and worst below ground. All these facts seem to show that, after a period of dry weather, the lightning discharge occurring in a thundershower spreads horizontally over the moist surface layer of soil. The different liability of different species appears to depend upon difference in tissue resistance or different distribution of the aerial or root systems of the plant within the zone of the discharge.

In an electric gun invented in England, which seems to be successful, a projectile is hurled through a tube by the action of electric magnets on the outside.

WHITTLING WOOD A LOST PASTIME

DISAPPEARED WITH THE OLD-FASHIONED SAILOR.

Boy of Today Buys His Toy Boat and Kite Sticks, Thus Saving Time and Labor

Where are the whittlers of yesterday—the jackknife experts who laboriously fashioned curious keepsakes out of soft wood, or who idly whittled sticks to toothpick dimension as they sat and debated the problems of the nation in front of the village stores? The old time Yankee was often ill at ease unless he had his knife in his hand with a block of wood on which to exercise it. He could not focus his mind on heavy questions—like the elections at the next town meeting—unless he was watching a shaving curl gracefully in the wake of his carefully sharpened knife blade.

Those who had abundant leisure often devoted themselves to elaborate carvings. Sailors were especially gifted in this way—deep sea sailors, who occupied themselves on long voyages with miniature ships and other models. And while the back country Yankee was an inveterate whittler he rarely tried to compete in artistic results with his seafaring brother of the coast.

But whittling both as a habit and as an art, appears to have practically disappeared. The jackknife is no longer in evidence as it once was, either in country towns or along the water front. The pace of life has quickened or else other interests have driven it out. And even the small boy, though he still cherishes his knife, does not number the expert use of it for carving among his ambitions.

In those days every boy who amounted to anything—one who was not a regular mollycoddle—possessed a jackknife, and knew how to use it. He demonstrated this not only by whittling out a hull, which when supplied with masts and rigging stood evenly on her keel, but which, when fitted with an Al suit of sails, rode safely every squall and boisterous sea and showed a clean pair of heels to the other small ships as it slipped across the duck pond.

That was not all the small boy with the handy pocket knife learned to make from inspecting what the sailors brought home. There were the wonderful chains, some square linked, others with double square links, with wooden balls running freely within the length of the links, these having been carved out of the middle of the square of which each section of the chain was made.

It was a pretty proud boy who could show one of these chains with three or four links, the last one having a padlock swinging from it, for it gave him a certain high standing with the "fellers" not obtainable for any other reason.

Every boy had a jackknife in those days and he did not think much of the one that was handed to him on Christmas or on his birthday if it was not a toadsticker. An ordinary knife was good enough for sharpening a pencil, but when it came right down to good execution it was the "sticker" every time.

"I can recollect that the boys began chain carving with a piece of soft pine, say an inch and one-half square," said a white-haired Providence, R. I., man. "When they had mastered the art they shifted to a hard pine stick the successful manipulation of which showed the grit the boy had, for often it meant big blisters on the hands, so hard was the cutting."

"I have not seen a boy whittling on one of these chains or anything else in years. I think about the last whittling I saw them doing was in connection with peach stones, out of which they were making little baskets to be hung to the watch chain and rings for the finger."

"There is another reason why the boy is not whittling as he formerly did. He had to make his own kites, fashioning the backbone and making the bow with his knife. His mother furnished the paste by mixing flour and water. He covered the kits with a newspaper which had to be at least a month old before it was allowed to be taken from the closet—people held on to their newspapers in those days."

Despite what this old patriarch says the boy is still buying and carrying his knife, only, as the shopkeepers explain, he is apparently more fastidious in the choice he makes, giving the big "toadstickers" the go by for a more attractive article; still he insists upon having one with a good cutting edge.

"I sold more knives just before the holiday season closed last Christmas than I had for a long time," said one of the hardware dealers, "and in a special sale held since then I disposed of several hundred more, yet I can't say when I have seen a boy whittling while about the streets as I used to. I wonder how many could in the spring, when the sap is running up, cut a willow stick, fashion a whistle, get the bark off without breaking it, finish the whistle, slip the bark on again and blow the thing? We boys could do that trick handily. I suppose if I asked my own son that same question he would be apt to answer me by asking what was the matter with buying a good whistle for 5 cents and saving time and labor?"

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